

# ***NEWS RELEASE***

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

***George N. Campbell, Commissioner***

**For Immediate Release**

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**Contacts:** John Corrigan  
Safe Routes to School  
Coordinator  
(603) 271-1980  
Bill Boynton  
Public Information Office  
(603) 271-6495

**PUBLIC MEETINGS FOR ROUND 2 OF SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAM**  
**NEARLY \$1.5 MILLION AVAILABLE FOR LOCAL PROJECTS**

Communities from Nashua to Franconia will have an opportunity on July 21, 2008 to describe their plans for making it possible for children to safely walk or ride bicycles to school. Members of the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Statewide Advisory Committee (SAC) will listen to local project sponsors during a public meeting at the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) in Concord. The communities have applied for Round 2 reimbursement funding under the federally funded program.

Faced with the challenges of serious hikes in fuel costs, air pollution caused by private vehicles idling in school zones, and the epidemic of childhood overweight and obesity associated with a sedentary lifestyle, school and municipal officials have recognized the advantages of walking and bicycling. They have applied for nearly \$1.5 million in federal reimbursement funding for local projects.

Proposals range from developing school travel plans in Lebanon to new sidewalks in Ossipee. The infrastructure projects selected will be based on careful evaluation and will complement educational and law enforcement efforts. The advisory committee meeting is part of a process that began with a review of applications by Regional Planning Commissions.

The public session will be held in the main floor conference room at the John O. Morton Building, 7 Hazen Drive in Concord, on July 21, beginning at 3:00 PM. A second meeting, for applicants seeking startup funding, will be held on July 24, also beginning at 3:00 PM at the same location. The committee will make recommendations to NHDOT Commissioner George Campbell, who is expected to announce the awards in September.

For more information on SRTS, as well as lists of applicants, visit:  
[http://www.nh.gov/dot/bureaus/planning/SRTS\\_home.htm](http://www.nh.gov/dot/bureaus/planning/SRTS_home.htm)

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